

1925
(Somerset)

WELLINGTON₁ RURAL DISTRICT.

STAFF:

Medical Officer of Health, CHARLES RANDOLPH.

Clerk to the Council, MR. W. T. GLASS.

Sanitary Inspector, MR. C. WEBBER.



Area in Acres	...	...	...	...	33,906
Population	...	...	...	...	5,770
Occupation	...	...	...	Chiefly Agricultural	
Woollen Manufactures—at Wellington and Wiveliscombe					
Brickyards	...		at Poole.		

Geology—Upper Part of New Red Sandstone Series,
with thin beds of Clay here and there.

Number of Inhabited Houses (estimated)	...	1,500
Number of Families or separate Occupiers	...	1,506
Assessable Rateable Value	... ..	£45,724
Sum Represented by a Penny Rate	...	£191



MARCH 31st, 1926.

To the Wellington Rural District Council.

GENTLEMEN,

I have the honour of presenting to your Council my Annual Report on the Rural District of Wellington for the year 1925. This Report could not be prepared before as the necessary facts could not be obtained earlier.

BIRTHS. 96 Births (39 male and 57 female); this produces an annual Birth-rate of 16.6 per 1,000 of the population. The average number of Births for the past five years is 105. Ours is an exceptionally low Birth-rate and much below that of England and Wales, which is 18.3 per 1,000.

DEATHS. 71 persons have died in the district during the past year, including 18 transferable deaths of residents in our district occurring in Hospitals or other places outside our area. These 71 produce an annual Death-rate of 12.3 per 1,000. The average number of deaths for the last five years is also 71, so we must consider the year, at any rate as far as the Death-rate is concerned, as a normal year.

INFANT DEATH RATE. The Infant death rate is low, only three children having died under one year of age, giving an infant death rate of 31.2 per 1,000 births. Or in other words out of 96 children born only three have died under one year during the past year, giving a favourable Infant death rate. The average number of deaths under one year of age for the past five years is four per annum.

AGES AT DEATH.				CAUSES OF DEATH.	
3	persons	have died	under 1 year of age	7	died from Pulmonary Tuberculosis
2	„	„	from 1 to 5 years	3	„ Pneumonia
2	„	„	5 to 15	8	„ Bronchitis
4	„	„	15 to 25	7	„ Heart Disease
25	„	„	25 to 65	10	„ Cancer
35	„	„	from 65 and upwards	1	„ Influenza
71					

The other 35 Deaths call for no comment.

TUBERCULOSIS. 11 new cases have been reported in the district during the past year, 10 Pulmonary and one Non-Pulmonary. There have been seven deaths (four male and three female)—five persons have been admitted into sanatoria; shelters are provided for all suitable cases. There are at present four shelters in use in the Rural District and these are regularly supervised by the Tuberculosis Visitor. Patients living in their own homes are supplied with extra nourishment by the Tuberculosis Care Committee.

Contacts are examined by the Medical Officers at the Tuberculosis Clinics, and any steps taken that may be necessary for their treatment.

During the last five years the total number of deaths from Tuberculosis amount to 30, on an average six each year. As last year we registered seven deaths and 11 new cases (the average of the latter for the last five years being 10) we can hardly say that the disease is declining, at any rate in our district of Wellington, despite the vigorous efforts our Sanitary Officers are making to combat it.

A new Sanatorium was opened in the summer on the Quantock Hills. It is, I believe, in a satisfactory condition. Tuberculosis Clinics are held in Taunton and Wellington and are, I believe, numerously attended.

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY.

AGES.	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.		Pulmonary.		Non-Pulmonary.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
1								
5								
10								
15	2							
20	1				1			
25	2				2	1		
35	1		1		1	2		
45		3						
55								
65 & upwards		1						
	6	4	1		4	3		



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INFECTIOUS DISEASE. In the early part of the year many cases of Measles and Influenza occurred; it was necessary to close the Council Schools of Bradford, Langford Budville and West Buckland for some weeks. The epidemic was of a mild character and only one death occurred. We have had

2 cases of Scarlet Fever

1 case of Diphtheria

1 case of Erysipelas

1 case of Puerperal Fever

We have, as previously reported, no Isolation in the district, and still have to rely on Tiverton where our contract still holds good, but I do not think we have troubled that Institution now for some time.

WATER SUPPLY in our district has given no trouble, and except in a few cases where water is unattainable, there has been an abundant supply for everyone. The Milverton Water Supply has been quite satisfactory during the year, good in quantity and quality.

MILK SUPPLY. I do not hear that there is any scarcity of Milk for the people in our district. A large quantity is conveyed every day to the Dry Milk Factory at Hemyock as well as to other destinations. 36 Producers and 17 Retailers are registered.

I have been called to witness one Post Mortem, in which the evidence was conclusive and necessary measures adopted.

DISINFECTION of infected houses has been carried out in all necessary cases. Shelters and tuberculous houses have received due attention; Spraying and scrubbing with Lysol preparations, and Sulphur fumigation have been the measures adopted. Your Council have consented to take over the responsibility of destroying rats in certain parts of the district and have been already engaged in the work at Wiveliscombe with success.

HOUSING OF THE WORKING CLASSES. During the past five years 23 new houses have been erected in the Rural District, and seven pronounced as unfit for human habitation. During the past year no new houses have been completed, though there are a good many (12 at least) now in process of erection and some of these have been occupied since the beginning of the present year. They are all good serviceable houses, with three bedrooms, kitchen, and sitting room.

One house has been condemned as unfit for human habitation. 95 houses inspected, 24 in which notices were served, and 16 rendered fit as the result of these notices.

Unfortunately we have changed our Sanitary Inspector, which renders the necessary information difficult to obtain.

NURSING ARRANGEMENTS are adequate for the sick poor in their own homes in nearly every village, and Maternity cases well provided for by qualified midwives.

I am, Gentlemen,

Your obedient Servant,

CHARLES RANDOLPH,
Medical Officer of Health.

